

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-01 ARA-10 EA-10
NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
HA-05 /119 R

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APPROVED BY IO:GBHELMAN
AF/S:DPETTERSON

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R 040411Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 030026

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA PROXIMITY TALKS: BRIEFING ON UN OPERA-
TIONS

1. AT THE MALTA TALKS ON RHODESIA WE WERE STRUCK BY THE
LACK OF APPRECIATION ON THE PART OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT
OF THE ADVANTAGES WHICH CAN ACCRUE TO THEM THROUGH A MAJOR
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UN PEACEKEEPING ROLE. IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THE FRONT'S
LEADERSHIP HAD LIMITED UNDERSTANDING OF THE POLITICS OF
THE UN, HOW PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS ARE DEVELOPED AND
FUNCTION. PREM CHAND'S EXCELLENT PRESENTATION ON UN PEACE-
KEEPING, COMBINED WITH PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT
SERVED, WE BELIEVE, TO CHANGE SOME OF THE FRONT'S PERCEP-

TIONS.

2. IT OCCURS TO US THAT SWAPO MAY BE SUFFERING FROM A SIMILAR LACK OF INFORMATION AND PERSPECTIVE. SWAPO'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL MAY BE AT LEAST marginally influenced by a better appreciation of how UN FORCES CAN OPERATE TO MINIMIZE INTIMIDATION AND NEUTRALIZE RESIDUAL SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES.

3. CONSEQUENTLY, WE SEE A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE IN ORGANIZING A "SEMINAR" FOR SWAPO'S LEADERS IN ADVANCE OF THE FEBRUARY 11-12 TALKS ON UN PEACEKEEPING. WE WOULD ENVISAGE NO REPEAT NO CONTACT GROUP PARTICIPATION IN THE SEMINAR. RATHER, CONTACT GROUP WOULD URGE THE UN SECRETARIAT TO ASSEMBLE SOME OF ITS PRINCIPLE PEACEKEEPING EXPERTS SUCH AS BRIAN URQUHART-JAMES JONAH, TOGETHER WITH OTHERS SUCH AS AHTISAARI AND NON-SECRETARIAT PERSONALITIES SUCH AS SALIM. IF PREM CHAND IS IN TOWN, HE MIGHT ALSO PARTICIPATE. THIS GROUP COULD PROFITABLY SPEND SEVERAL HOURS WITH SWAPO ELABORATING ON PEACEKEEPING PROCEDURES AND TECHNIQUES.

4. YOU SHOULD PROPOSE SUCH A SEMINAR TO THE CONTACT GROUP AND, PROVIDED THEY AGREE, MAKE APPROPRIATE APPROACH TO UN SECRETARIAT.

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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